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Identical letters dated 14 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 12 May 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 16 to 22 April 2001 they carried out 225 sorties, 77 of them from Saudi Arabia, 70 from Kuwait and 78 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 14 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 225 sorties in the period from 16 to 22 April 2001, 77 of them from Saudi Arabia, 70 from Kuwait and 78 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 78 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1135 hours on 16 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Sinjar, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1250 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1215 hours on 17 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Mosul, Tall Afar and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1520 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1115 hours on 19 April 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Tall Afar, Dohuk, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1215 hours on 20 April 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Sinjar, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1515 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 147 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1435 hours on 16 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Kut, Afak, Hayy, Taqtaqanah, Najaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Qal'at

Salih and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1745 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2120 hours on 17 April 2001, United States and British F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 15 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and three from the demilitarized zone with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Artawi, Ar'ar and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0015 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 2215 hours on 18 April 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 15 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and five from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Salman, Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2400 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 2035 hours on 19 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Najaf, Jalibah, Qal'at Sukkar and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2120 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1143 hours on 21 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 23 missions, 11 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Salman, Lasaf, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Shinafiyah, Mashkhab, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf, Hayy, Hashimiyah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1000 hours on 22 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 26 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qal'at Salih, Najaf, Shaykh Sa'd and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1125 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs